

Thoughts From Adrienne

Jewish Social Services has three major components: Geriatric, vocational, and counseling. The largest in terms of caseload at present is the vocational one.

Jewish Social Services is not a placement or personnel agency. Rather, its primary responsibilities are a stress-reduction one. Persons come to the agency because they are unemployed or facing unemployment. They have usually pursued other avenues before contacting me. They are hopeful this contact will assist them in meeting their goal of securing employment, and thus help to alleviate the insecurity they feel about their future.

When a person comes to me with vocational concerns, we begin with the task of finding employment. Assistance is given in job seeking, planning and placement activities, in resume preparation, and in development of job interviewing skills. Resources, including job-lead suggestions are made to the person. A job listing is sent to perspective employers in the area. This includes the unemployed person's job skills which can elicit possible job leads.

The types of persons who seek vocational counseling vary. It might be a young adult, who has recently graduated college and is seeking his or her first job. People move into Charlotte from other parts of the country because they want to live here and hope that employment will follow soon after coming. There are people who are laid off from jobs for reasons they may or may not have control. Women with families find they need to enter the job market because of family circumstances, such as family finances or impending divorce. Some come to Jewish Social Services

because they are not vocationally suited for their present positions, or are experiencing problems on their job.

A person who comes to Jewish Social Services for vocational counseling is facing stress. Because the question "What do you do?" is so important in our society, when one is not employed, he or she begins to feel they are not contributing to their family's support. Financial and marital problems are often a concern and are addressed by me in working with vocational clients. Depression is very often a real issue for the unemployed, especially if someone has been looking for a job without success for an extended length of time.

The vocational component of Jewish Social Services, therefore, is to be available to discuss and provide support for all facets of a person's life while they are unemployed. Some cases are considered closed at the point a person



Adrienne Rosenberg, Social Service Director.

finds a job; others with other problems are followed for a longer period of time. All services are confidential.

Jewish Social Services can be contacted for an appointment Monday through Friday from 9-5 by calling 364-6594 or 366-5007. Jewish Social Services is a Department of the Charlotte Jewish Federation.

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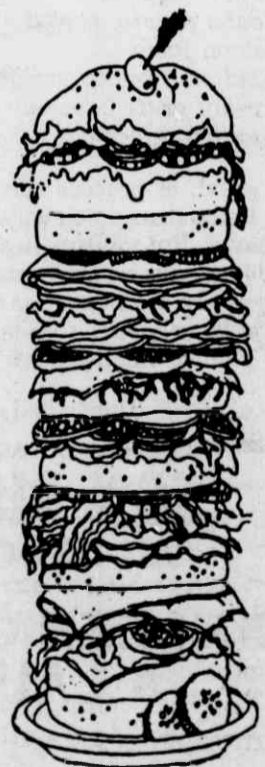
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